

PROJECT APPLICATION FORM – 2009

Applicant: Thomas Wolf (on behalf of Parker-Damon Building Steering committee)	Submission Date: November 10, 2008
Applicant's Address, Phone Number and Email: 118 Nonset Path Acton, MA 01720 tom.wolf@comcast.net	Purpose: Recreation
Town Committee (if applicable): <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">Acton Public Schools, Recreation Committee</div>	
Project Name: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">Parker-Damon Playground Shade Structures</div>	
Project Location/Address: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">Parker-Damon Building Charter Road</div>	
Amount Requested: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">\$12,900</div>	
Project Summary: <p>Construction of two canopy shade structures next to each of the existing playgrounds at the Parker-Damon building. The goal of this project is to provide protection from sun and relief from heat to users of the Parker-Damon playgrounds. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary students at the Merriam and McCarthy-Towne schools, Special Education students in the Acton Public Schools summer program Special needs students in the CASE summer program Acton Community Education summer programs Acton families seeking a town playground with shade <p>The shade canopies will also serve as outdoor classroom spaces for these student populations.</p> <p>The structures will consist of four steel posts about ten feet high with a sturdy fabric canopy stretched between them covering an area approximately 10 x 16 feet. A picnic table with benches under each structure will make the space more inviting and useful.</p>	
Estimated Date for Commencement of Project: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">June 2009</div>	
Estimated Date for Completion of Project: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">August 2009</div>	

Rationale

The current playground spaces at the Parker-Damon building have no natural shade during peak sun hours from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM – which coincides with the time the playgrounds are most used. As the days get warmer in May through August it can be uncomfortably hot and there is no shady space to rest and cool off.

Excessive sun exposure also increases the risk of sunburns, long term skin damage and skin cancer. Here are a few facts from the Skin Cancer Foundation (www.skincancer.org)

- Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. More than one million skin cancers are diagnosed annually.
- About 90 percent of non-melanoma skin cancers are associated with exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.
- Both UVA and UVB rays are dangerous to the skin, and can induce skin cancer, including melanoma. Blistering sunburns in early childhood increase risk, but cumulative exposure also is a factor.

While the primary purpose the structure would be to provide shade, the principals and teachers envision using this as an outdoor classroom space as well. The area bounded by the canopy will provide a well defined and comfortable space for outdoor instruction on mild days.

Picnic tables under the canopy will make the space more inviting and open to other uses such as board games for children who prefer less active play. The picnic tables would also provide benches to sit down and cool off.

Other shade alternatives such as trees would take 10 or more years to become effective. Furthermore, it is the opinion of the Parker-Damon landscaping committee that the soil around the playgrounds is not suitable for healthy trees due in part to the coarse fill and thin topsoil used during construction.

Population Served

The population that benefits from the shade structures would be primarily elementary school age Acton residents that currently use the playgrounds. This includes:

- 1060 elementary students and staff at the Merriam and McCarthy-Towne schools
- 86 special education students in the Acton Public Schools summer program
- 185 special needs students and staff in the CASE Collaborative six-week summer program
- 80 students enrolled in Acton Community Education summer programs
- Acton families seeking a town playground with shade

It is likely that the addition of shade will draw more families to the playgrounds during non-school hours. For example, if a baseball game is taking place on the nearby high school field, some families may visit the playground as a diversion for the younger siblings. The shade would make this a more attractive playground for this type of casual use.

Project Location

The two proposed shade structures would be built on school property behind the Parker-Damon Building. The site is owned by the Town of Acton. Each structure would be placed near the

existing play structures so they are part of the playground. The exact location of the structures will be decided by the Parker-Damon steering committee based on the following factors:

- safety
- size of the shade structure
- preserving the “flow” of the playground space for other activities
- other long-term plans for school grounds
- abutting property and set-backs
- soil quality

Site Control

Since the site is on school property, the project was presented to the Acton Public School board on October 16, 2008. The school board voted their approval of the project.

Zoning

Since the project is adding a feature to existing playgrounds on school property, there are no zoning concerns for this project. The plan was briefly reviewed by Town Planner, Roland Bartl, and no zoning concerns were raised.

Setbacks

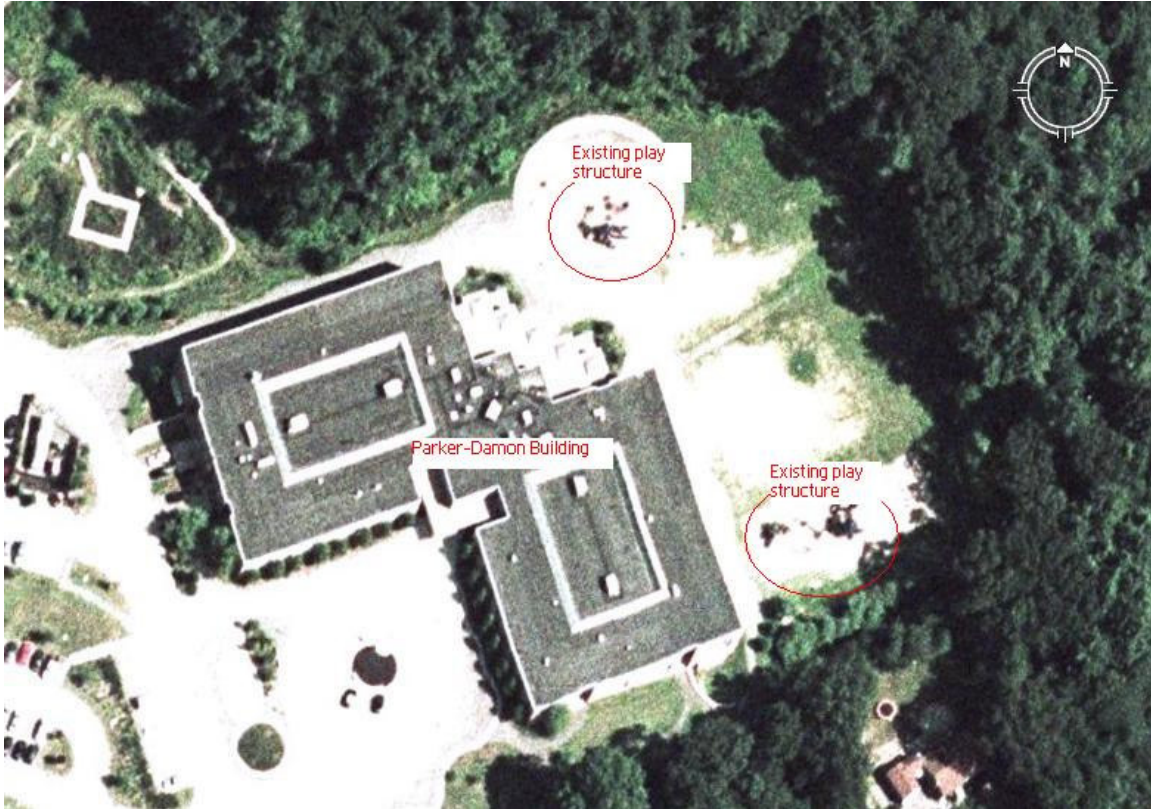
Since the project will be built next to existing playground structures on an open field, there is very little chance the location will violate any property border or wetland setbacks.

Abutters

Due to the small scale of the project and the fact it is just adding a piece to an existing playground, there is little impact to abutters. Even so, the three closest abutters have been identified by the Acton Planning board and notified by a letter sent on October 22, 2008 notifying them of the project and encouraging them to contact the applicant or the CPC if they have concerns.

Site Plan

Below is an aerial view of the site showing the Parker Damon building and approximate location of the shade structures near the existing play structures.



Pictures of the Site

The following pictures of the existing playground areas were taken on Oct 12 at 2:30 PM. Some pictures show shade cast from the building. This shade does not exist during earlier school hours especially in the months around the summer solstice in June. The pictures are to help visualize the site of the proposed shade structures.



McCarthy-Towne playground looking North



McCarthy-Towne playground looking East



McCarthy-Towne playground looking West



Merriam playground looking West



Merriam playground looking South



Merriam playground looking South East

Shade Structure Details

Two shade structures would be constructed, one near each of the existing playground spaces at the Parker-Damon building. The structures would be a very simple design with four steel posts in the shape of a rectangle approximately 10 x 16 feet. A canopy of sturdy weatherproof fabric will be stretched between the posts about 10 feet off the ground. Steel ribs would stretch between the posts to support the canopy and give it a slight peak. This angle on the canopy will help keep debris from collecting on the fabric and will look more refined than a sagging canopy. The color of the materials will be chosen to compliment the play structures.

The shade structures are designed to withstand sun, high winds, rain and corrosion. However, extreme weather, like hurricanes or heavy snow, may require removal of the canopy to prevent damage. Warranties vary by brand. With proper care, the canopy fabric should last 10 or more years. The frame should last 25 years or more.

The proposed structure would look similar to one pictured below:



Picnic Table Details

Two hexagonal picnic tables (one for each shade structure) with built in benches will provide seating under the canopy. The tables will be made from recycled plastic material and provide a long life with no maintenance. The picnic tables can be moved in or out of the shade depending on how the shade is being used.

Below is a picture of the type of table proposed.



Consistency with Community Preservation Plan

This project meets the requirements for recreational use as stated in the following quotes from the Acton community Preservation Plan (emphasis added).

"The CPA defines recreational use as, "active or passive recreational use including, but not limited to, the use of land for community gardens, trails, and noncommercial youth and adult sports, and the use of land as a park, **playground** or athletic field. "

"The development of new recreational facilities should take the shape of multi-use recreational zones, which incorporate playing fields, open space, landscaping, and **shade to ensure participant and spectator comfort**, land protection, and aesthetic appeal."

"Provide new and **enhanced playground facilities for our youngest citizens**."

Community Support

The Parker Damon steering committee is a group of principals, staff and parents from the Merriam and McCarthy Town schools. They have reviewed this proposal and support it as a way to protect students from sun and heat and enhance the school grounds with an outdoor classroom space.

The Parker Damon Building Steering Committee has pledged \$500 in funding. These funds come from special fundraisers from both Merriam and McCarthy-Towne schools specifically for projects that benefit both schools.

The project was presented to the Merriam PTO meeting on October 22, 2008 where it received enthusiastic support from approximately 35 parents and teachers from the Merriam School. The project was also presented to the McCarthy-Towne PTO who also praised the plan.

The director of the CASE collaborative, Rory Liebmann, recognizes the need for shade in the summer and would welcome having a cooler place for students to play during their summer program which lasts about 6 weeks.

CASE Collaborative has pledged \$250 to this project.

Theresa Gorman of Acton Community Education has recognized the value of these playgrounds to their summer program. The shade would provide some relief to their students during the hot summer months. Community Education has contributed funds to other playground maintenance projects to enhance the facilities used by their summer programs.

Acton Community Education has pledged \$250 to this project.

Project Implementation

Feasibility

J.D. Head, the director of facilities for Acton Schools, has reviewed this proposal. If approved for CPC funding, his department would take over responsibility for implementing the project as proposed. He has experience implementing other CPC projects for the schools.

Project Timeline

Below is a rough timeline for completion of the project.

May 2009

- Decide exact size and location of the structure
- File permit applications for the project
- Collect quotes for structures that meet the criteria

- Order materials

Summer 2009

- Construction will be timed to minimize disruption to the programs in the building.
- Construction involves digging holes, setting steel posts in concrete bases, erecting the canopy supports and attaching the canopy.

Ongoing maintenance

- The structures are designed to withstand wind (up to 80 mph), rain and sun damage.
- To avoid snow damage the canopy may be taken down and stored indoors over the winter and reattached in the spring. This will be a simple maintenance task.
- The fabric canopy has a limited life span (10-year warranty for one brand) and may need to be replaced after a decade of use.
- The steel posts have durable finishes but may need to be painted after several years.

Project Budget and Funding

Budget

An estimate for the proposed shade structures and installation was obtained from O'Brien and Son's (see attached). This company sells and installs playground equipment and was the company that installed the existing playground structures at the Parker-Damon building. The cost of the picnic tables was obtained from sampling prices found on line for tables similar to the ones proposed.

2 Shade Structures (10'x 15' x 10')	\$8,800.00
Installation	\$3,200.00
Permits and Misc Expenses	\$500.00
<u>2 Hexagonal recycled plastic picnic tables</u>	<u>\$1,400.00</u>
Total Estimated Cost	\$13,900.00

Sources of Funding

As noted earlier, some of the groups supporting this project have contributed funds to show their support. These include the Parker-Damon Steering Committee which is funded by the McCarthy-Towne and Merriam PTOs and uses its funds to support projects that benefit both schools. The Acton Community Education and the CASE Collaborative have also pledged funds to recognize the benefit they will derive from the enhanced playground.

Parker Damon Steering Committee	\$500.00
Acton Community Education	\$250.00
Case Collaborative	\$250.00
<u>CPC Funds Requested</u>	<u>\$12,900.00</u>
Total Funding	\$13,900.00

Project Estimate



93 West Street
Medfield, MA 02052

Date: October 29, 2008
Job: Parker Damon Shade
Location: Acton, MA
Salesperson: Nancy A. White, CPRP, V.P. of Sales
Nancy.White@obrienandsons.com
Attn: Tom Wolf
Tel.: 978-264-0552
E-mail: tom.wolf@comcast.net

**APPLICABLE 2008
SURCHARGE HAS
BEEN APPLIED TO
THIS QUOTE.**

Corporate Office: 800-835-0056 • Telephone: 508-359-4200 • Fax: 508-359-2817
Web: www.obrienandsons.com • Email: mail@obrienandsons.com

QUOTATION

We are pleased to offer our quotation on the following for the above subject job:

<u>QTY.</u>	<u>MODEL #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2		10' x 15' Rectangular 10' Shade Systems Structures 10' Entry with estimated freight	\$8,792.00

Installation:

- Receive, inventory and deliver shelters to the site.
- Lay out and excavate 8 shelter footings.
- Erect two 10' x 15' rectangular Shade Systems structures as per manufacturer.
- This proposal is subject to review if the work is not accepted within 30 days and completed by 4/30/09.
- This proposal is based on having an open, level, unobstructed and accessible site for the machines, trucks and storage of the materials.
- Verification of the measurements is the sole responsibility of the owner. Adjustments to the site, the equipment, work done by others, delays or return trips due to errors will be done at an additional charge.
- The owner is responsible for surveying and marking the property lines. Removal and/or replacement of any materials due to error or lack of markings will be done at an additional charge.
- The owner is responsible for marking all underground obstructions. Forte Landscape & Construction cannot and shall not be held liable for damage done during construction.
- This bid does not include any site work including but not limited to leveling or grading nor does it include the fencing and security of the site, nor does it include any accessibility to the structure, including but not limited to, curb cuts and walkways. Any work not specifically noted in this proposal will not be included and would be done at an extra charge.

Total Installation: \$3,200.00

All items listed are based on standard manufactured colors.

The above prices are f.o.b. your specified destination unless otherwise noted.

Prices are firm for 30 days, subject to review thereafter. Our terms are to be arranged.

Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery after receipt of order and architectural approval, should it be required.

Standard manufacturers design, specifications, and construction apply.

If ordered, upon receipt of equipment, please inspect the entire delivery carefully making note on the delivery receipt of ANY damage so that a freight claim can be filed if damage is found after opening the packages.

If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact us.